

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as previously amended.

Claim 1. (Previously Presented.) An isolated alpha-amylase selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide produced by *Bacillus* sp. NCIMB 40916,
- b) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as shown in positions 1-556 of SEQ ID NO: 4,
- c) a polypeptide encoded by the alpha-amylase encoding part of the DNA sequence cloned into a plasmid present in *Escherichia coli* DSM 13001 (NN049489), and
- d) a polypeptide that:
 - i) is at least 60 % homologous with the polypeptide defined in (a) or (b), or
 - ii) is derived from the polypeptide defined in (a) or (b) by one or more of substitution, deletion or insertion of one or more amino acids.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented.) An isolated alpha-amylase having an enzymatic activity at pH 10.5 that is at least two times higher than the activity at pH 7.3 when measured at 37°C.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented.) An isolated alpha-amylase having an enzymatic activity at pH 9.5 that is at least 4 times higher than the activity at pH 7.3 when measured at 37°C.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented.) The alpha-amylase of claim 1, wherein said alpha-amylase is derived from a strain of *Bacillus*.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented.) The alpha-amylase of claim 1, wherein said alpha-amylase retains more than 90 % of its activity after 20 minutes incubation at 25°C in a solution of 3 g/l of a test detergent containing 20% sodium tripolyphosphate (STPP), 25% Na₂SO₄, 15% Na₂CO₃, 20% linear alkylbenzene sulfonate (LAS), 5% C₁₂-C₁₅ alcohol ethoxylate, 5% Na₂Si₂O₅, 0.3% NaCl at pH 10.5 and 6 degrees German hardness, and retains less than 90 % of its activity after 20 minutes incubation at 30°C in the same solution.

Claim 6. (Original.) The alpha-amylase of claim 1 which has a molecular weight of about 55 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE.

Claim 7. (Original.) The alpha-amylase of claim 1 which has an iso-electric point of about 5 as determined by isoelectric focusing.

Claim 8. (Original.) The alpha-amylase of claim 1 in the form of a detergent additive which is a non-dusting granulate or a stabilized liquid.

Claims 9-15 (Cancelled.)

Claim 16. (Original.) A method for producing the alpha-amylase of claim 1, comprising cultivating an amylase-producing strain of *Bacillus* in a suitable nutrient medium, and recovering the alpha-amylase from the culture medium.

Claim 17. (Original.) A detergent composition comprising the alpha-amylase of claim 1 and a surfactant.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented.) The detergent composition of claim 17, wherein said composition has a pH of 8.5-11 in aqueous solution.

Claim 19. (Original.) The detergent composition of claim 18 which is a laundry detergent.